

Monocacy Scenic River Board meeting
Wednesday, March 2, 2016
Frederick, Maryland

In attendance:

Jack Lynch (FC), Bill Hensley (FC), Tim Goodfellow (FC), Byron Madigan (CC), Jim Wieprecht (CC), George Grillon (CC), Pam Reppert (City of Frederick). Special guest speaker: Tracy Coleman from the City of Frederick Engineering Department.

Bill motioned to accept February 2016 meeting minutes. George seconded. Unanimous approval.

Tim introduced Tracy Coleman from the City of Frederick Engineering Department, who was invited to discuss the Monocacy Boulevard/East Church Street Extension project that includes a new bridge span over the Monocacy River (Tracy's presentation was not listed on the March agenda that was sent to River Board members)

Tracy described the \$55 million dollar project (split between the City and County) to widen the stretch of East Church Street from just east of the Monocacy Boulevard/Shifferstadt Blvd intersection eastward to the Monocacy River, which will be called Monocacy Boulevard. The project will be a 4-lane divided roadway with sidewalk/bike path with a new River crossing that will be parallel to the existing Gas House Pike crossing. Construction is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2016 and take 2.5 years to complete.

The project required, per Tracy, extensive negotiation with the landowner (Umberger) to obtain easements for the road project. The Monocacy Blvd improvement will address, to a degree, the severe erosion of Abraham Faw Run on the Umberger property (image below).



Five new culverts will be installed to carry A. F. Run under the new roadway, a plunge pool installed below the culverts to slow the water flow, and soft and hard armoring of the stream channel and banks including approximately 400 shrubs and low-growing plants for bank stabilization. The portion of A.F. Run from the road to the River will also have cattle-exclusion fencing installed to protect the restoration component for the stream (however, cattle will have access to both sides of A.F Run after project completion)

Many River Board members questioned why no additional tree plantings along the stream, the River, and further upstream on the Umberger property were not included in the road project. Tracy said that those elements were not considered by the City. Jack pointed out that untreated stormwater from the 9th street area in Frederick City washes down A.F. Run which has contributed to the severe erosion of the stream.

River Board members mentioned that the Soil Conservation District Staff and USDA or MDA should be engaged to better protect the Monocacy River and A,F. Run on this property.

The River Board then discussed the River Management Plan update. Focus was made primarily on the 30 maps that depict the River, its resources, and the Monocacy River Resource Protection Area boundary line (MRRPA). The River Board members present expressed concern that the MRRPA boundary line appeared to be somewhat arbitrary in places and that it lacked consistency in some places. Tim will revise the MRRPA line and include in the April meeting packet, along with a revised River Management Plan, which will have significant revisions from the February 2016 draft.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Submitted by Tim Goodfellow